

Newsletter of the
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

31 May 2016

**Highlights of the
2015 Annual Meeting**

The 2015 annual meeting of the AAZN was called to order at 10:10 AM EST, 21 January 2016, in the Entomology Conference Room, 5th Floor, at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Seven members were in attendance, three by telephone.

The first order of business was to appoint Andrew Cline as acting Secretary for the AAZN. President Gaimari suggested that Andrew be acting Secretary until nominations and elections were completed for the next cycle of officers at the end of 2016, which was unanimously approved.

Acting Treasurer Al Gardner provided a preliminary report of the society's finances, in lieu of the formal report which was submitted after the meeting. He reported that the society currently has 138 individuals and 10 institutions listed on record as members currently paid-up through fiscal year 2015. These memberships accounted for \$1665 in dues. There were also several donations reported that totaled \$1265. Books and other printed materials sold by the association amounted to \$65 total. These sales, dues, and donations represent a cumulative income total of \$2995 received for FY 2015. Previously, FY 2014 had a cumulative income total of 3201.42. The FY 2014 cumulative income total was less than that in FY 2013. Therefore, a trend of cumulative

income decreases over the past several years is now apparent, in particular from decreases in membership dues. Expenses for fiscal year 2015 included \$256.09 in supplies and postage as well as \$130.00 to maintain the society's tax exempt status. The society continues to maintain two fund accounts, one with Legg-Mason and another with Wells Fargo.

There was general discussion regarding the concern of a dwindling membership and recruiting new members. President Gaimari discussed the possibility of gaining membership from Northern California, especially from the San Francisco area. Other suggestions for bolstering membership and association visibility included announcements at various scientific society meetings, advertising in societal journals, sponsoring presentations and/or seminars, and preparing short Powerpoint presentations on nomenclatural issues and having them available on our website or for distribution at professional meetings. Floyd Shockley suggested creating an AAZN Facebook page to increase our visibility with social media, which was met with unanimous approval.

Judith Winston provided an update from the ICZN meeting in Berlin. The details of the report are provided as the next article in this newsletter.

A brief discussion followed with regards to AAZN providing donations to the ICZN endowment fund as matching funds are still being generated. Prior contributions by the AAZN have been evidenced in public relations releases from Singapore National University.

The discussion then moved to officer nominations and elections. Comments were made that perhaps staggered cycles of officers would be best, and allow for “institutional memory” to be better passed down to new officers from established officers still in place. Please see the call for nominations later in the newsletter.

The final discussions centered on the decline of institutional support for taxonomy and systematics, and the need for more social media exposure of the AAZN was reiterated and may include other outlets than just creating a Facebook presence. A general theme of increasing the society’s exposure to more interested parties was stressed.

President Gaimari adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM EST.

Report on ICZN Meeting Berlin 14-16 December, 2015

Judith Winston and Gary Rosenberg prepared, and Judith Winston presented to the AAZN, a report on the ICZN meeting held in Berlin in December, 2015.

ICZN Commissioners met at the Free University, Berlin in conjunction with the 32d International Union of Biological Sciences General Assembly and Conference, 14-16 December, 2015. Thirteen Commissioners were present for all or part of the meeting, one, Doug Yanega, attended via Skype.

December 14th sessions

Elections were the first item on the agenda. This was done so that those attending the IUBS could also vote for the slate of candidates prepared from nominations to ICZN. Announcements were made at the IUBS morning session, paper ballots given out and votes counted. At this election there were 7 positions open. Results: Patrice Bouchard, Erna Aesch, Francisco-Welter-Schultes, Neil Evenhuis, Thierry Bourgoïn, Dmitry Dmitriev, and Frank Rheindt were elected. This decision was ratified by the General Assembly of IUBS on December 16th. [and represents the first time the elections took place at an IUBS meeting in a number of years]. There were 26 nominees for the seven positions, but there may be by-elections coming up, so they may be nominated again in future, if they remain interested.

A nominating committee consisting of the Council, plus 2 members, Alberto Ballerio and Peter Ng, will come up with 2 candidates for each of positions for President, Vice-President. 1) The nominating committee has identified two candidates that are willing to run for President, and one that is willing to run for vice-president. We’ve discussed other potential nominees and so should be just a couple of phone calls/emails away from filling out the slate for the election that will start February 1st.

The position of the ICZN in Singapore is secure for now. A major donor in Singapore contributed 1.25 million SGD and AAZN contributed 6k USD. Goal for additional funding is to provide 5M SGD.

The amount available funds one position in Singapore. Martyn Lowe will continue to

operate the Secretariat in Singapore, reporting to the President and ICZN Council.

There will not be an Executive Secretary. Zhi-Qiang Zhang will serve as Secretary General. Since the December meeting he has renewed discussions with BioOne, which has now offered to put *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* in its collection starting January 2017. This would generate income starting in 2018, but still leaves ICZN with a gap in covering production costs until then. The offer from BioOne has not yet been voted on by Commissioners.

Miguel Alonso-Zarazaga was named Editor-in-Chief of BZN. Svetlana Nikolaeva will continue as Scientific Editor, based at NHM. The ICZN Website will be moved to Singapore and Singapore will oversee accounts. The ICZN has a Memorandum of Understanding with the National University of Singapore that will continue as long as both parties wish.

Bylaws were reviewed by a committee and discussed by commissioners present. The goal was to bring them up to date with current practice and staffing. There was also discussion of the relationship with IUBS; it was agreed that this was a useful connection, but that there was a need to make changes to the constitution and bylaws to make the need to meet with IUBS less of an obstacle and to find a way to include a broader section of the community/users in voting for commissioners.

A discussion on LANs –lists of available names followed. This was progressing for Rotifera ---idea of a LAN is to provide a new setpoint thata would stop name archaeology, however, other taxon groups

are approximating this more slowly in their online databases. There was also a discussion of codes of ethics. No votes were taken.

Members attended IUBS symposia which included “Building an Informatics Agenda that will deliver a Unified Biology, Bionomenclature: Making the Nomenclatural Codes, concepts and tools fit for modern research,” and an evening public discussion session which was very productive. Botanists and zoologists who attended seemed much more positive about aligning their codes than in past discussions of the topic.

December 16th sessions

In the 4th Code of Zoological Nomenclature, which took effect in 2000, a decision was made to allow new taxa to be described on optical discs. Remember the Internet was not that well-developed then, and many thought CDs would be the way of the future. This turned out to be a bad decision and was stopped after 2012 when all electronic publication became possible through an amendment to the Code. An Ad hoc Committee on Archiving of Works Produced on Optical discs was created to compile a list of works produced on optical discs and to work out a mechanism for their archiving (Rich Pyle and Judith Winston). We are asking the help of AAZN members and others to bring these to our attention as the electronic searches so far have not retrieved much. The 4th Code recommended (but did not rule) that people publishing this way deposit them with 5 major libraries, but did not suggest what libraries. In addition to asking librarians at major libraries to help, we will ask participants on listservs such as

Taxacom to try to prevent these publications, however many, from vanishing.

Rich Pyle discussed trends in Zoobank registration: Bulk imports are important; big surge in numbers, Sherborn, Diptera lists, and Hexacorallia are all being prepared for importation, and he has been approached by other database owners, continuing registration shows encouraging community buy-in. The talk he gave at the Tuesday symposium with statistics on Zootaxa will be put online. There was further discussion of Zoobank policies with emphasis on the need to reorganize committees to include new commissioners and the need for additional people with IT skills to help/backup RP, and the costs of ZB maintenance (between USD 3-5K/yr).

Afternoon discussion involved preparation of the 5th edition of the Code. A draft should be ready before the next IUB meeting; there was discussion of terminology differences between codes, feasibility of adding epitypes, infrasubspecific names, dealing with hybrids, and tightening of requirements for type material.

Planning for 2016-2020

Doug Yanega was allowed to attend the meeting via Skype, including being able to vote. Bylaws do not forbid this, so a precedent is set for more virtual meetings. This might make it possible to work a little faster. Although personal attendance is important as social event, funding is scarce for many.

Motions (all approved unanimously)

The president was requested to form a Committee for BZN to provide leadership for the development and publication of the journal that will consider a new workflow for the reviewing process, an online edition, which will follow a hybrid model for three years, then be made open to the public, and will have reduced rates for online subscriptions.

Date of Elections for President and VP: February 1—1 month voting period. [discussed above]

The Secretariat shall call for nominations for members of Council stating 15 March 2016 and ending 15 April 2016. Voting will be from 15 June 2016 to 15 July 2016 for four new members of Council.

The Editorial Committee for the 5th Code is asked to make recommendations for harmonization of terminology and procedures between the International Codes of Nomenclature. Suggested that they meet with ICB members in Singapore before the next International Botanical Congress in July 2017 in Shenzhen, China.

Revised version of the Bylaws will be distributed for comment to all commissioners, after one month the final version will be sent for voting under the 3-month rule.

Newly elected President will be asked to circulate composition and tasks of all ICZN committees before 1 July 2016 so Commissioners may express their interests.

Call for Officer Nominations

This is a call out to the membership of AAZN to volunteer to be nominated, or to make nominations for society officer positions! Most current officers are completing their terms at the end of 2016 (which for some is already an extension of their original term). We have made some efforts to nominate individuals, but now call on you to volunteer to run, or to nominate individuals you think would make good officers! Just because we list the nominations we have come up with below, that does not mean we won't accept further nominations for the same Officer position. The new set of Officers will be elected by the membership through a ballot process later in the year.

Please forward your nominations to any of the current Officers by August 1, 2016, and we will post voting instructions after that time.

The following people have so far been nominated to run for various Offices. Some are newly nominated to the positions, while others are nominated as they are willing to continue in their current role:

President: Stephen Gaimari (current President)

President Elect: Floyd Shockley (currently a Councilor)

Secretary: Andrew Cline (currently Acting Secretary)

Treasurer: Al Gardner (currently Treasurer)

Councilor: Michael Engel (currently a Councilor)

Current Officers of the AAZN

President: Stephen Gaimari, 2013-2015
(CA Department of Food and Agriculture)

President-Elect: vacant

Secretary (Acting): Andrew Cline
(CA Department of Food and Agriculture)

Treasurer: Alfred Gardner
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Floyd Shockley, 2013-2015
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Roy McDiarmid, 2013-2015
(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Michael Engel, 2013-2015
(University of Kansas)

Continuing Book Sale

1. ICZN. 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th ed. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, xxix + 306 pp. **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$33 off original price!]

2. ICZN. 1987. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 365 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$60 off original price!]

3. ICZN. 2001. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology. Supplement 1986–2000*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 136 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [= \$60 off original price!]

Items 2 and 3 (Official lists) are offered as a unit: **Sale price** \$40.00 plus postage; \$45.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate). [\$100 off original price!]

Dr. Alfred Gardner
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Smithsonian Institution, MRC 111
National Museum of Natural History
P.O. Box 37012
Washington DC, 20013-7012
gardnera@si.edu, (202) 633-1276

Terms: Please send cash or a check made out to the **American Association for Zoological Nomenclature** to:

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**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2015
FOR PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Name of Society: _____ Regular (\$100.00) _____

Contact Person: _____ Gift _____

Address (corrections only)

e-mail: _____
(please provide your most recent e-mail address)

TOTAL enclosed _____

Make checks payable to AAZN and mail to:

Dr. Alfred Gardner
Smithsonian Institution
P.O. Box 37012
National Museum of Natural History
MRC-111
Washington, DC 20013-7012

**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2016
FOR INDIVIDUALS**

Name: _____ Regular (\$20.00) _____

Address (corrections only) _____
Sustaining (\$25.00) _____

_____ Gift _____

e-mail: _____
(please provide your most recent e-mail address)

I would like to purchase to following books:

International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th Edition _____
(\$19.00 for AAZN members postpaid in U.S.)

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, 1987 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, Supplement, 2001 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

TOTAL enclosed _____

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